



WINGSPREAD

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH

66th Year • No. 31 • AUGUST 3, 2012

A photograph of a woman with dark hair and a young boy in an orange shirt looking at a book together in a library. The woman is holding the book, and the boy is pointing at it. They are both looking intently at the pages.

JBSA-Randolph youth find adventure at library

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INSIDE ... CIVILIAN PAY, P3 ... DOD ENRICHES CHILDHOOD, P4 ... AF OFFICERS COMPETE IN OLYMPICS, P8 ...

COMMENTARY

SERVICE BEFORE SELF

Leader gleans lessons from inspirational video

By Lt. Col. Christopher Huisman
315th Training Squadron Commander

GOODFELLOW AIR FORCE BASE, Texas – A friend of mine and fellow squadron commander recently recommended I watch a presentation our incoming Chief of Staff, Gen. Mark Welsh, gave to Squadron Officer School several years ago. My friend warned me it was not a short video, almost 90 minutes, but that it would be well worth the time. I'll be honest, when I sat down to watch, I was skeptical and thought I would watch five, maybe 10 minutes at most. Boy, was I wrong. I watched all 82 minutes in one sitting. It was a truly moving presentation, filled with lessons any leader could apply. Below are some of the lessons that stuck with me.

- **Trust your gut.**

There aren't any easy answers in some situations. Sometimes there is no book to reference. If something feels like it is the right thing to do, then it probably is. You were put in a position of leadership because your bosses trusted you. If something doesn't feel right, no matter how many people tell you, you should be doing something; if it doesn't feel right ... trust your gut.

- **Your people are better than you.**

Many leaders make the mistake that they need to be the best at any given task and many think they are. The truth is different. All the people you lead are better than you at something, some are better than you at many things and a few might be better than you at everything. Don't be surprised or intimidated. A leader's job is to take advantage of their people's skills and apply them to accomplishing the mission. The challenge is figuring out how to lead these people.

- **Everyone is trying hard ... never forget that.**

Frustration is the enemy. Leaders delegate tasks to their subordinates and provide them guidance on how to accomplish them. The biggest issue you have as a leader is when

"The profession of arms is important. You are important and what you bring to your profession is important, but it brings responsibilities with it: legal, moral and ethical."

your people come back to you with a solution to a problem you gave them and you don't like it. You might get frustrated at them and you let them know it. Before you lose your cool, remember 99.9 percent of the people you'll work with are trying to do the right thing. If they didn't give you the right answer, it's probably because you didn't give them the right guidance, priorities, resources or training.

- **The only "fingerprints" that last are the ones you leave on your people.**

When put in charge of an organization, many leaders want to leave their mark or "fingerprints" on an organization. They do this because they care. They might look at strategic vision, mission statements, facilities or reorganization. However, in many cases these "fingerprints" only last until the next leader arrives. The only fingerprints that last are the ones you leave on your people. Leaders need to spend their time and energy on the latter rather than the former. Make sure the fingerprints you leave are good.

For every person willing to lead, there are hundreds more willing to critique them.

When you step out as the lead on an issue in an organization, you are making yourself a target. Others might take the opportunity to take shots and critique. Deal with it. Most who take shots will want to be doing what you are, they just don't have the nerve to.

- **You won't always be right.**

No matter how talented, motivated or intelligent you are, a leader is

never always right and will make mistakes. When you're wrong, tell everyone you're wrong, learn from it and move on. Your bosses aren't keeping score and don't keep score on your people. Let your people make mistakes and learn from them.

- **Some days your best isn't good enough.**

This shouldn't be a surprise. When it isn't, your people are going to carry you. And the next day when their best enough isn't good enough for them, you are going to carry them. This is the way that a team works.

- **Being an Air Force officer, NCO or Airman means something ... act like it.**

Everyone who wears the uniform should know it and shouldn't whine about it when they get punished for doing something stupid. Make sure you say this to the people you lead and then hold them to it. The profession of arms is important. You are important and what you bring to your profession is important, but it brings responsibilities with it: legal, moral and ethical. All of these responsibilities matter and you will not recover from a mistake that falls into one of these categories, because they are not mistakes, they are bigger than that.

Leaders of every grade and position could pull something from Gen. Welsh's presentation, not just squadron commanders. I would highly recommend his presentation to anyone that wants to be inspired to be a better leader. Sit down and give it a view, just don't be surprised if you wind up watching all 82 minutes.

ON THE COVER

Master Sgt. Shokia Turner, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Agency career assistance advisor, reads a book to her son, Ayden, at the Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Library's summer reading program finale celebration July 28. For more coverage, see page 6.
Photo by Benjamin Faske

WINGSPREAD

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NEWS

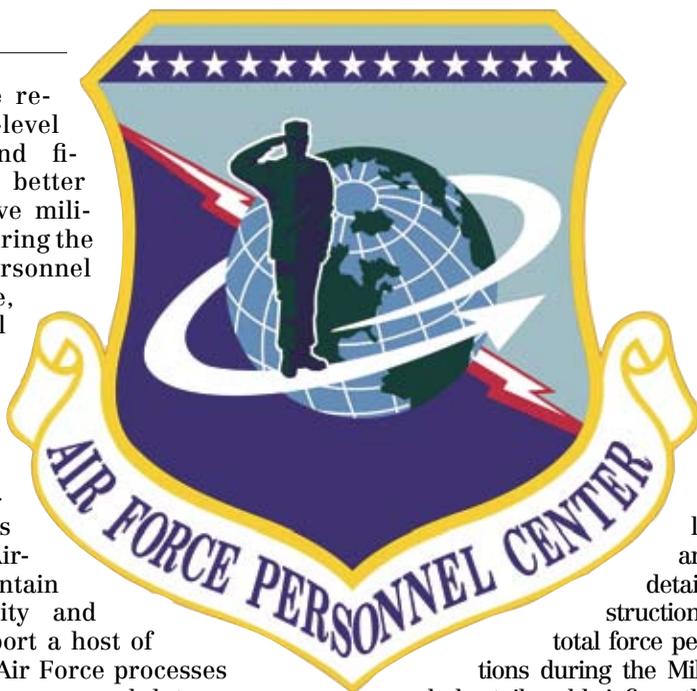
AF receives guidance for personnel, pay support

By Tech. Sgt. Steve Grever
Air Force Personnel Center

Because of guidance released July 24, base-level military personnel and finance sections will be better able to seamlessly serve military members' needs during the December Military Personnel Data System upgrade, Air Force Personnel Center officials said.

MilPDS is a records database for personnel data and actions that occur throughout every total force Airman's career. MilPDS is also used to initiate Airman pay actions, maintain Air Force accountability and strength data, and support a host of interactions with other Air Force processes and systems that rely on personnel data.

Air Force Personnel Operations Agency officials are upgrading and transferring MilPDS to the Defense Information Systems Agency's Defense Enterprise Computing Center in December. The upgrade project is scheduled to take about 23 days to complete and MilPDS will not be available during the upgrade phase.



"We collaborated with our total force partners to develop Air Force guidance that highlights critical timelines and processes local personnel and pay offices must follow to ensure Airmen are taken care of during the upgrade."

Lt. Col. Sean McElhaney Pahia

Total Force Service Center-San Antonio operations support division chief

To help prevent problems, AFPC fielded a guidance package that includes detailed information and instructions on processing critical total force personnel and pay transactions during the MilPDS upgrade. It also includes tailored briefings the Military Personnel Systems will use to educate base leadership and Airmen. "We collaborated with our total force partners to develop Air Force guidance that highlights critical timelines and processes local personnel and pay offices must follow to ensure Airmen are taken care of during the upgrade," Lt. Col. Sean McElhaney Pahia, Total Force Service Center-San Antonio operations

support division chief, said.

The upgrade will ensure MilPDS performs at optimum levels to give personnelists, pay representatives and other MilPDS users access to the data they need to complete customer transactions, Anthony Delgado, AFPOA's MilPDS R12 functional manager, said.

In the coming months, Air Force officials will release additional information and guidance to the Air Force's manpower, personnel, services and pay communities and total force Airmen to continue to educate them on how the service will perform critical personnel and pay tasks during the upgrade.

For general information about personnel services and programs, visit the myPers website at <http://mypers.af.mil>.

Civilians to use new AF pay system

By Master Sgt. Cecilio Ricardo
Air Force Public Affairs Agency

All Air Force civilian employees are slated to be using a new, standardized Air Force pay system by June.

The Automated Time Attendance and Production System will standardize the pay method across the service and was scheduled to be implemented first at Air Force Global Strike Command and Air National Guard bases July 29.

According to Doug Bennett, associate deputy assistant secretary for Air Force Financial Operations, the system will be implemented service-wide in eight waves during the next year and is meant to save time so personnel can focus on accomplishing the Air Force mission.

"It allows folks to focus on the mission, and allows the Secretary of the Air Force and Chief of Staff of the Air Force to make informed decisions about where we need to spend our money," Bennett said.

Along with better accountability and efficiency, the system also eliminates paper use. Currently, many Air Force civilians manually report their hours using the old paper-based system, Bennett said. ATAAPS will allow users to enter their time and have the supervisor approve it electronically, providing an audit trail, while increasing the accuracy of financial statements.

"It's a lot easier to trace time cards when it is centrally located," Benjamin Yarish, Air Force Financial Management Information Technology

Portfolio manager, said.

According to an Air Force study, 50 percent of the Air Force's civilian time cards were not properly approved by supervisors or entered into the Defense Civilian Personnel System in a timely manner.

These inaccuracies have resulted in overpayments, underpayments or, in some cases, no payments, according to the study.

"This standardized system will provide transparency and auditability," John Koski, Air Force Information Systems and Technology director, said.

"When your boss spends two hours every other week signing time cards, that's time that person isn't making

sure aircraft are being repaired or ready to fly," Bennett said.

The Air Force is not the first service branch to use the system.

"This system has been around for about 10 years. The Army is already using it and the Navy is looking to use it," Yarish said. "Therefore its track record provides confidence to use the system Air Force-wide."

The first bases to receive the ATAAPS system are Barksdale Air Force Base, La., Whiteman AFB, Mo., Minot AFB, N.D., F.E. Warren AFB, Wyo., and Malmstrom AFB, Mont.

"I think this is a great step forward," Bennett said. "I hope folks approach this system with an open mind and embrace this opportunity."

DoD children to benefit from part-day enrichment course

By Alex Salinas
Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Public Affairs

Parents who are Department of Defense cardholders, including DoD contractors and retirees, are eligible to enroll their children into the Part Day Enrichment Program offered by the Child Development Program.

Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis until Aug. 30. All forms must be submitted to the CDP. DoD members may enroll their children by emailing or faxing the 1181 Form and Child Placement Questionnaire. Forms that are walked in will also be accepted.

"Parents have the opportunity to have the benefits of the CDP at a part-time rate," Robert Ramirez, 902nd Force Support Squadron CDP Annex director, said.

Part Day Enrichment will offer two courses from Sept. 10 to May 24: a three-hour program 8-11 a.m. Monday-Friday and a four-hour program 8 a.m.-noon Monday-Friday.

The classes will take place at Randolph Youth Programs, Bldg. 585.

Ramirez said the program's price will vary depending on total family income and will take into account holidays the children have off.

The courses will follow the Randolph school calendar.

"PDE offers individualized activities that help support children's social-emotional, cognitive, language, creative arts and physical developmental needs," Ramirez said. "The curriculum is designed to put a stronger emphasis on the skills needed for kindergarten."

Each child in the program will be targeted on a two-week basis.

"Every two weeks, an activity directly related to whatever your child's interest or need is will be performed," Ramirez said. "They will be based on observations from our teachers as well as input from their parents."

"Parents know their children the best."

Mary Sharp, 902nd FSS Child Development Center training and curriculum specialist, said PDE teachers pride themselves on enabling children enrolled in the program to reach curriculum goals

with the help of parents.

"Parents are the No. 1 role player in the whole process; we really have to function as a team," and the opportunity for parent-teacher conferences will be available throughout the school year, she said.

"We target all areas of development in young children," she said.

The early socialization of children is a considerable focus of the program as well.

"Cooperative play" is what Sharp intends PDE children to be well-versed in once they leave the program and move into grade school.

The CDC staff is working to bridge the gap between their curriculum, which the PDE program follows, and subsequent education.

"The transition from preschool to kindergarten can be tough for kids," Ramirez said.

Measures like a kindergarten field trip were placed by the CDP to gather children about to enter kindergarten and allow them to visit the base elementary to get acquainted with the classrooms.

Improving technology is another issue the CDP is taking into consideration, both from the perspective of its students and its educators.

"With the obesity factor in mind, we like to have our children move around and stay active," Sharp said. "At the same time, technology permeates the interest of children."

Ramirez believed increasing technology usage – in the form of computer-related and digitally based interactions with the balance of a "hands-on" environment – complements his program's curriculum.

"Times have shifted to being that adventurous child outside to an increase in being at home using technology," he said. "We want to evenly balance that in our programs"

Parents can email required enrollment forms to CDC-Main@randolph.af.mil or fax them to 652-1144.

For more information, please contact the Child Development Program Annex at 652-1140 or visit their website at www.randolphfss.com and click on "Facilities," then "Child Development Program."

Base BRIEFS

Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph quarterly awards

The Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph quarterly awards will be held at 3 p.m. today in the base theater. For more information, contact Staff Sgt. Amanda Mercado at 565-4702.

Chapel and A&FRC to hold retreat

Active-duty married couples are invited to attend a Marriage Care Retreat Aug. 24-26 at the T Bar M Ranch in New Braunfels.

To sign up, contact the Airman and Family Readiness Center at 652-5321.

AETC holds special-duty briefing

Air Education and Training Command will hold a special-duty briefing at 9 a.m. Wednesday at the Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph theater.

The briefing will educate those in attendance on being a recruiter, military training instructor, military training leader and professional military education instructor.

For more information, contact Master Sgt. Terri Harmon at 652-2525.

AETC holds first sergeant briefing

Air Education and Training Command will hold a briefing to recruit first sergeants at noon Wednesday at the Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph theater.

The briefing is open to technical sergeants through senior master sergeants with the ability to gain three years of retainability.

For more information, contact Master Sgt. Terri Harmon at 652-2525.

Choir seeks volunteer members

Volunteers are needed for the Air Force Birthday Ball National Anthem Choir. The ball takes place Sept. 21. To sign up, contact Tech. Sgt. Amanda Hass at 395-7715.

Clinic seeks volunteers

The Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Clinic is seeking volunteers ages 18 and older to help with the registration process for a new online secure messaging service called MiCare. There will be a one-hour training session with the volunteer segment beginning in September. To volunteer, contact the Red Cross volunteer desk at 652-6372 or Population Health at 652-1707/4028.

Randolph Chapel Schedule

• CATHOLIC Monday-Friday

11:30 a.m. - Bldg. 102

Saturday

5:30 p.m. - Bldg. 102

Sunday

8:30 a.m. - Bldg. 102

11:30 a.m. - Bldg. 102

Confession

Saturday

4:30 p.m. - Bldg. 102



• PROTESTANT Traditional

Sunday Service

8:15 a.m. - Base theater

Contemporary

Sunday Service

11 a.m. - Base theater

Civil engineers issue road closure notice

Second Avenue West, the road between the health clinic and the Kendrick Club, will be closed Saturday through Aug. 12 from Fourth Street West to Third Street West. There will be signage to direct traffic. For more information, contact Peggy Knox at 652-1249.

NOW SHOWING at the Randolph Theater

"Ted" (R)

Mark Wahlberg, Mila Kunis, Seth MacFarlane

Today at 7 p.m., Saturday at 6 p.m.

"Brave" (PG)

Voices of Kelly Macdonald, Billy Connolly,

Emma Thompson

Saturday at 3 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m.

\$5 for adults, \$2.50 for children 11 and under

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH

Professional Performers

The Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Top Three Professional Performer Award program recognizes enlisted members for their outstanding professionalism in the performance of primary and additional duties, and leadership within the base and community.



**Senior Airman
Addicus Niland**

Senior Airman Addicus Niland, 902nd Security Forces Squadron

The May Professional Performer of the Month for the Junior Enlisted category is Senior Airman Addicus Niland.

Senior Airman Niland mediates and assists in the resolution of base civil disturbances and helps ensure the safety and security for the installation's 16,000 personnel. He excelled at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Gaylor Airman Leadership School and received the coveted Distinguished Graduate Award for being in the top 10 percent of his class academically. Additionally, he volunteered to be a head coach for the Randolph T-ball team and taught basic baseball skills to 12 Randolph dependents.



Tech. Sgt. Keith Hartman

Tech. Sgt. Keith Hartman, 902nd Security Forces Squadron:

The May Professional Performer of the Month for the Noncommissioned Officer category is Tech. Sgt. Keith Hartman.

Tech. Sgt. Hartman is an invaluable manager and source of knowledge in every area of security forces training. He ensured more than 180 active-duty, reserve and civilian personnel received top-notch training required to provide solid protection on a daily basis for more than 16,000 personnel. Additionally, he planned and organized more than five training classes for the 902nd Security Forces Squadron, providing the defense force commander with a highly trained and capable force. Lastly, he masterfully realigned 30 tasks and more than 300 hours of instruction to ensure a solid foundation for security forces operations.

Members of the Top Three may nominate members in the rank of E-1 through E-6.

SNAPSHOT

Photos by Benjamin Faske

Youth find adventure at library's summer finale celebration

The Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Library got summer started May 18 in a tasty fashion with "Reading is so Delicious!" – the 2012 Summer Reading Program's theme. The program encouraged children of all ages, including high school-aged children, who are dependents of Department of Defense ID cardholders, to read as many books as they could during the summer break.

A large part of the Summer Reading Program at Randolph are contests geared to engage participants. A few of the contests included a poetry and bookmark design contest with various prizes. Students in grades 9 through 12 had the chance to win an electronic book reader if they registered for a book review contest, where they were required to read five out of eight books on a reading list and submit book reviews.

Prizes were awarded on Wednesdays, May 30 through July 18, and the finale party was July 28.



Addison Newman plays ring toss at the Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Library summer reading program finale celebration July 28 at Randolph.



Alexis Viale finds a book to read at the base library's summer reading program finale celebration July 28.



Lexy Klinger hands out gift bags to JBSA-Randolph youth at the base library's summer reading program finale celebration July 28.

Budding engineers attend AF-sponsored event

By Alex Salinas

Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Public Affairs

The Air Force continued its two-year collaboration with Great Minds in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math by sponsoring a program through the organization called Viva Technology July 26 at St. Mary's University that featured 250 middle school- and high school-aged children from the Texas Prefreshman Engineering Program.

The goal of the seminar was for TexPREP members to work together in teams to construct a building out of paper materials that could house at least one team member.

Angel Haro, Great Minds in STEM manager of education programs, said Viva Technology was designed to engage inner-city and rural grade school students to participate and work in a hands-on environment pertaining to STEM degree fields.

Todd Fore, Air Force Personnel Center executive director, was on board to speak to TexPREP participants about the significance of STEM fields and technological improvements during past decades.

He posed the question "What do you want to invent?" to the children.

Fore also spoke about the need for more educated leaders not only in the Air Force, but city-wide.

"If you invest in education, you invest in the future of our city," he said.

St. Mary's University and eight other colleges and universities across San Antonio are host sites for the TexPREP Summer Program, which targets underrepresented population groups and prepares them for the scientific and engineering career paths.

Rafael Moras, a St. Mary's University professor who holds a doctorate in engineering and is also the San Antonio PREP site director, hesitated to underscore TexPREP as simply a summer program.

"Don't think of it as a summer camp," he said. "Yes, it's fun, but it's very aggressive, challenging and rigorous."

Raul Reyna, who holds a doctorate in education administration and is the executive director of San Antonio PREP, TexPREP and PREP-USA, said the summer program gives many



Photo by Rich McFadden

Todd Fore, Air Force Personnel Center executive director, addresses San Antonio-area students at the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Viva Technology Program at St. Mary's University July 26.

inner-city children the opportunity to enrich their abstract reasoning and problem-solving skills, thus allowing them to become on par with other students who may be better prepared from receiving better education.

"A valedictorian at one school may not receive the same quality of education as the valedictorian at another school that's more supported," he said. "We want all of our kids to have the best chance to succeed."

Diversity is an instilled motivator for the students who make up TexPREP: Of the 43 percent who major in a STEM degree in college, 80 percent are classified as minority and 53 percent are female.

Maj. Zdravko Belic, who came from

the Pentagon representing Diversity Operations, said diversity means more than gender and ethnicity from an Air Force standpoint.

"Diversity also encompasses educational background, where someone lives and many other factors," he said.

As for location, San Antonio being a host city for the TexPREP Summer Program and Viva Technology hit the mark for what Belic called a "national priority" as far as STEM field education is involved.

"It's not just about what the Air Force or the government wants," he said. "To encourage the youth of the nation to study the STEM fields, we have to make them engaging, fun

and fascinating."

Part of making things engaging and fun for youth was having mentors from the TexPREP Summer Program who majored in STEM degrees serving as team leaders.

This ultimately made Viva Technology a "mentoring and outreach event," Belic said.

Also present were Airmen and Department of Defense civilians, led by Lt. Col. Jenise Carroll, AFPC Diversity Council member from Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.

Carroll, who helped organize guest speakers for the event, said some of her Airmen volunteers from Randolph

See EVENT P12

AF officers join U.S. Olympic team for 2012 Summer Games

By Tech. Sgt. Steve Grever
Air Force Personnel Center Public Affairs

Two Air Force officers qualified for primary and alternate positions on the U.S. Olympic team for the 2012 Summer Games in London July 27.

Capt. Seth Kelsey, 310th Force Support Squadron supply officer from Buckley Air Force Base, Colo., is competing in individual men's epee fencing and Capt. Justin Dumais, 157th Fighter Squadron F-16 pilot from McEntire Joint National Guard Base, S.C., is an alternate competitor in the men's three-meter synchronized diving event.

Kelsey is a two-time Olympic fencer and competed in the 2004 and 2008 Summer Olympic Games. Dumais represented the U.S. at the 2004 Olympic Games and took sixth place in the men's three-meter synchronized springboard competition.

Kelsey and Dumais are a part of the Air Force World Class Athlete Program that is a two-year program providing regular Air Force, National Guard and Reserve Air Force personnel the oppor-



Courtesy photo

As a 2nd Lt., Seth Kelsey (right) duels with Russian Ivan Tourchine in the second round of the 2004 Olympic Men's Individual Epee event at Helliniko Fencing Hall in Athens, Greece.

tunity to train and compete at national and international sports competitions with the ultimate goal of selection to the

United States Olympic team. The WCAP targets athletes who achieve world class status in their sport.



Courtesy photo

Capt. Justin Dumais earned a bronze medal in men's three-meter synchronized diving at the 2005 World Championships in Montreal.

For more information on the Air Force World Class Athlete Program, visit <http://www.usafsports.com/WCAP.htm>.

EVENT from P11

and Lackland were close in age to the participants, whom brought "generations together."

"It is about give and take," she said. "We inspire them with our stories and they inspire us."

After being around a diverse group of students goal-driven by their summer program's curriculum, Carroll believed people should have "extra propensity for hope and determination."

"Talking about diversity allows people to stretch themselves, challenge themselves," she said.

TexPREP consists of five levels - I, II, III, IV and UPREP - where participants must pass exams and meet evaluations before they reach the next level.

St. Mary's University is a PREP III site.

Dave Vocale, a PREP III instructor, said the program's expectations are very high, but the students who stick with it have an advantage when entering college.

Ninety-nine percent of participants graduate from high school, 98 percent attend college and 86 percent obtain a two- or four-year degree.



Roberto Ornelas (left), Science, Technology, Engineering and Math education program coordinator, and Danielle Villar, STEM senior intern, prepare the supplies needed for the Viva Technology Program Paper House Activity at St. Mary's University July 26.

Photo by Rich McFadden



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Scan with Smartphone app to access the Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Facebook page at [Facebook.com./RandolphAirForceBase](https://www.facebook.com/RandolphAirForceBase)



Sports BRIEFS

Scuba diving certification starts Saturday

Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Outdoor Recreation is offering an international scuba diving certification through the Duggan Diving Course 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday at the South Pool and Aug. 11-12 at North Park at Canyon Lake for open water dives. For more information, call 652-3702.

Clinic schedules youth physicals

The JBSA-Randolph clinic is now taking appointments for sports physicals for youth ages 6-18 who are enrolled in TRICARE Prime at the base clinic.

Parents can call 916-9900 to schedule an appointment. A parent or legal guardian must accompany the youth to the appointment and a completed school sports physical form must be presented.

Rambler Fitness Center staff sponsors 10K Bike Ride Challenge

The Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Rambler Fitness Center will hold its annual Randolph Challengers 10K Bike Ride 7:30 a.m. Saturday at Eberle Park.

Randolph Oaks Golf Course offers discount

Starting at 6:30 p.m. Monday-Friday (except for holidays), families can golf together for a discounted price. For more information, call the JBSA-Randolph Oaks Golf Course at 652-4653.

SPORTS - HEALTH - FITNESS



Courtesy photo

Steve Shortland (far left, back row), Air Force retiree and head coach of the USA men's softball team, is pictured with the men's and women's USA softball teams at the Border Battle in Oklahoma City, Okla., in 2010.

AFPC softball player chosen to coach men's USA team

By Airman 1st Class Lincoln Korver
Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Public Affairs

One might be surprised to learn how far a person could go by only using a metal bat, lime-green balls, leather mitt and white bases on an Air Force base's recreational softball field.

When retired Master Sgt. Steve "Pup" Shortland arrived at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph as his first duty station, signing up to play on the Air Force Personnel Center's intramural softball team was only the beginning of his highly successful military and athletic career.

Shortland first started playing softball when he was 18 years old in a local league with his friends, he said.

"At first we just horsed around," Shortland said, "but as time went on we started entering tournaments and did pretty well."

Shortland was first assigned to AFPC at Randolph when he enlisted into the Air Force in 1983. While serving on active duty, he was stationed at Zweibrucken Air Base, Germany; Eaker Air Force Base, Ark.; Offutt AFB, Neb.; and then was brought back to San Antonio where he completed his 22-year Air Force career at the same location he began it.

"I have known him (Shortland) since 1998 when I first arrived here at Randolph," Jim Miller, AFPC head softball coach, said. "I played for Air Force Re-

cruiting Services here on base and I used to play against him."

Those who were on opposing teams to Shortland always looked forward to the end of the season because he would have to leave before intramural playoffs began so he could compete for the All-Air Force team, Miller said.

Within 19 seasons of playing softball for AFPC, Shortland won 16 championships.

"We always looked forward to him leaving because he was so good," Miller said.

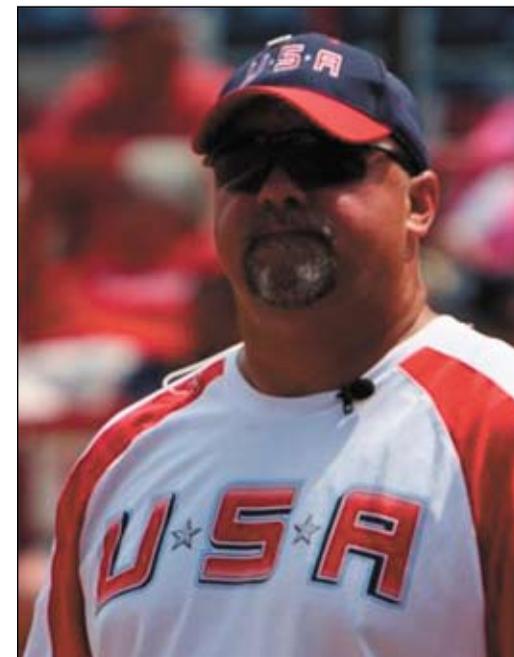
During his active-duty career, Shortland competed not only for the All-Air Force team, but he also played on multiple elite, nationwide civilian teams.

Shortland was selected to be the head coach of the men's USA softball team four years ago, Miller said. Out of the four championships, he has led his team to three victories.

"It's like having another coach on the team even though he's not the coach," Miller said. "He's the coach of Team USA, what more can I say? Whenever I need help, he's right there. You would think it might be intimidating, but it's not because he gives me the autonomy to do what I want. He's the most laid-back and humble guy I have ever met."

Shortland is well known around the softball community for being an honest, sincere and kind player.

"First and foremost, he's a teacher," Miller said. "You'd think that playing

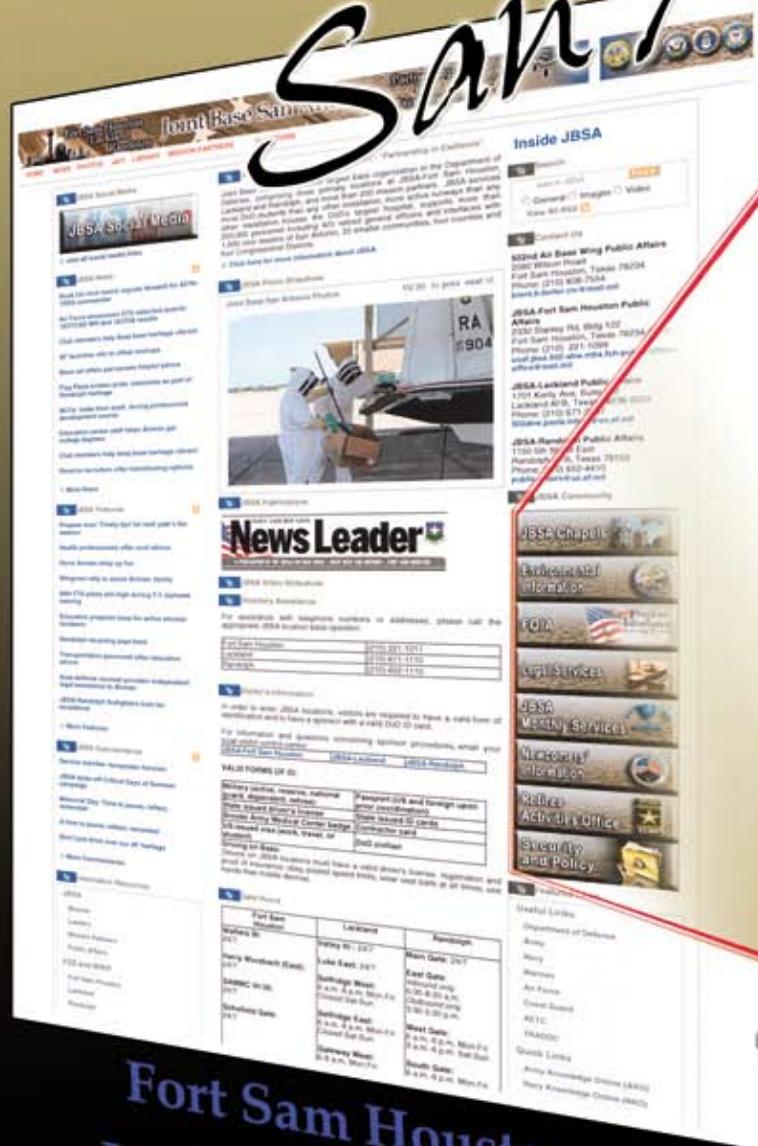


Courtesy photo

Steve Shortland, Air Force retiree, was chosen to return as the head coach for the USA men's softball team in 2012.

softball means just going out, hitting the ball and scoring a lot of runs, but there's a lot to be learned and he teaches it so well. He always comes across in a positive way. Like he says, 'when you lose, don't lose the lesson.' When you make mistakes, learn from them."

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